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Title: Regarding drinking water problem in North Karnataka.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Sir, I just want to bring to the kind notice of the House that for the past 375 days, more than 1,000 people are sitting on *satyagraha* demanding drinking water. The Mahadayi River travels 35 kilometres in Karnataka and 82 kilometres in Goa before joining the Arabian Sea. Out of a total catchment area of 2,032 square kilometres, the catchment area in Karnataka is 375 square kilometres. As per the Central Water Commission, in 2003, the yield in Mahadayi River Basin was 220 TMC. According to Karnataka's Water Resources Development Organization, the yield in Karnataka Basin is 44.15 TMC. Mahadayi's yield in Goa is 175 TMC. Karnataka is intending to use for drinking purpose the water from Kalasa-Banduri Project, which is 7.56 TMC.

For this, we are fighting since long. Our Chief Minister, and even an All-Party Delegation also, met the Prime Minister and also the Water Resources Minister, including Shri Ananth Kumar. We are requesting them to give clearance only for 7.5 TMC of water for drinking purpose. As regards rest of water, whatever the Tribunal decides, you can take a decision accordingly. Such decisions can be taken only by the Prime Minister. He has to intervene, but I do not know why he is not taking interest in this.

Sir, you are aware that such a thing happened previously even in Tamil Nadu, in Chennai. When there was shortage of drinking water, Shrimati Indira Gandhi immediately took steps. She called the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra and requested each of them to give 5 TMC of water from their share. Therefore, at least, the Prime Minister should look into this. For more than one year, they are sitting on a *dharna* or *satyagraha*. Every time, *galatas* are going on. It is a law and order problem. If anything happens, the Government of India will be held responsible for this.